

As a matter of design, the memorial would introduce a major focal point at a location never intended to have one and would constitute a serious deviation from the McMillan Plan—indeed, a grotesque deviation, the likes of which we have heretofore never seen come to fruition. The extent of space between the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial, as well as the distinctness of its two parts, separated by Seventeenth Street, represents more than an apt representation of the vastness and complexity of American space; it is an essential open ground for those two symbols of America's greatest leaders and of American greatness. Any substantial intervention, especially one on the scale of the proposed memorial, would hideously violate that order, detracting from both the established landmarks and also from itself. The Mall is not a commercial pleasure ground—despite some attempts to make it one. The whole meaning of one of the greatest civic spaces that exists anywhere in the world today will be irreparably cheapened by any proposed scheme for a major memorial on this site.

Perhaps most significantly of all is the terrible symbolic message conveyed by siting a memorial to any war on the Mall's primary axis. It may be argued, of course, that World War II had transcendent importance for the nation and its position internationally, but no war should be accorded so pivotal a place in the national capital. Is this not more a siting characteristic to dictatorships—Napoleon's Paris; Hitler's Berlin? Any number of messages can be read into this locational strategy, the great majority of them distasteful for a democracy.

I would like to end on a personal note, for while I was born after World War II, it was very much a part of my youth. My father served with distinction as executive officer, then as commanding officer, of two Naval repair bases in the South Pacific. Early on I learned from him and from others how important that conflict was and how profoundly it had reshaped the world. It sickens me to think of an event of this order of magnitude degraded by what appears to be a press for expeditious resolution. The site of the memorial should not spark the kind of amazement and anger it is doing from reasonable, well-informed, and intelligent people all over the country. The legacy deserves better. Cannot the imagination and resourcefulness be found to place this memorial in a really magnificent site, fully appropriate to its place in American history?

Sincerely,

RICHARD LONGSTRETH,  
Professor of American Civilization, George Washington University, First Vice President.●

#### 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF JOHN AND CARMELLA GANDOLFO

● Mr. D'AMATO. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate John Giovanni and Carmella Seminerio Gandolfo of Lynbrook, NY. After 50 years of love, hard work and spirit, the two are about to renew their marriage vows and celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. As I remark on this union, created in Aragona, Sicily, half a century ago, I must comment that their unconditional love for each other is equal to the one they share for their community.

John and Carmella reside in Lynbrook where John is now retired from the construction industry and Carmella is a dedicated homemaker.

Mr. and Mrs. Gandolfo have been blessed with three children, and five grandchildren. Family and friends see the couple as a tower of strength, support, understanding, and limitless love. They have passed these same attributes on to their loved ones, creating a model family that is admired by their community. Their marriage serves as a milestone to be duplicated by others.

This record does not do justice to commemorate the longevity of such an event of triumph, tenacity, and joy. John and Carmella's marriage embodies what all citizens should try to achieve, and captures the true meaning of love and citizenship. Once again, I would like to congratulate John and Carmella on their joyous day. I hope these renewed vows will add another 50 years of fortune to their lives.●

#### BETTY SHABAZZ

● Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, tragedy has beset the family of Malcolm X and Betty Shabazz with such abundance that I doubt few of us can comprehend their grief.

Yesterday, Betty Shabazz the proud educator and activist wife of the late Malcolm X, died of complications that ensued after she suffered burns over 80 percent of her body in a fire at her Yonkers apartment on the first day of this month. Dr. Shabazz had battled her way through five extensive operations since the fire, but the injuries proved too extensive for her to overcome this final tribulation. Having witnessed the assassination of her husband, defended one of her children against charges of an alleged murder plot, and sought to ease the troubles of her grandchildren, Dr. Shabazz rose above it all to defy critics and symbolize an ability to overcome all means of adversity.

In trying to reconcile this tragedy, I recall the words of Oscar Wilde who wrote: "It often happens that the real tragedies of life occur in such an inartistic manner that they hurt us by their crude violence, their absolute incoherence, their absurd want of meaning, their entire lack of style." My deepest sympathy goes out to this family that has too often been forced to grapple with the "absolute incoherence of tragedy."●

#### TRIBUTE TO ANI DANIELIAN, PHILLIPS EXETER ACADEMY STUDENT AND RECIPIENT OF THE 1997 JAPAN-UNITED STATES SENATE YOUTH EXCHANGE SCHOLARSHIP

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate Ani Danielian, a student at Phillips Exeter Academy, on being the recipient of the 1997 Japan-United States Senate Youth Exchange scholarship. This is certainly an accomplishment of which she should be very proud and I salute her for her achievement.

Ani was chosen to represent the Granite State during a summer exchange program in Japan. She will spend 6 weeks living with a host family and meeting with Government officials. Before traveling to Japan, Ani will attend an orientation program in San Francisco, CA.

The scholarship is administered by Youth For Understanding [YFU] International Exchange. One high school junior from each State received a scholarship this year from YFU. Competition for this scholarship was intense, as evidenced by the almost 700 applicants for the 50 available scholarships. Ani was selected through a rigorous screening process which involved numerous volunteers of YFU.

Ani is involved in several organizations at Phillips Exeter Academy, including the Concert Choir and the Japanese-American Society. Following graduation, the 16-year-old plans on attending a liberal arts college and possibly majoring in International Relations or East Asian Studies.

I congratulate Ani Danielian on her outstanding accomplishments. I commend her hard work and perseverance and wish her luck in her exploration of the Japanese culture.●

#### TRIBUTE TO THE OUTSTANDING DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY CAVALIER AIR STATION

● Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the exhaustive and exemplary disaster assistance efforts of those at Cavalier Air Station, near Cavalier, ND.

As my colleagues are aware, my State has suffered the worst winter and spring of its history. A record eight blizzards dropped over 100 inches of snow on North Dakota, and brought with them sub-zero temperatures well into the month of April. The worst and final blizzard—Hannah—coated the State in ice, knocked out power for much of the State, and made the snowmelt that followed much worse. The flood that followed was a 500-year flood, driving thousands from their homes and farms all along the Red River. Livestock losses were in the hundreds of thousands, economic losses in the billions, and the disruption to the lives of those affected were incalculable.

In the face of this, everyone in North Dakota pulled together, including the able men and women of our Armed Forces stationed in my State. The outstanding snow removal efforts of the National Guard and Air Force personnel from the Minot and Grand Forks bases were well documented, and brought the Secretary of the Air Force, Dr. Sheila E. Widnall, to North Dakota in February to say a personal "thank you." The accommodation of thousands of flood refugees at Grand Forks AFB—which helped preserve a sense of hope and community for Grand Forks—also made for unforgettable images on